

AIARTS GALLERY

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VALE TO THE GREAT DR GEOFFREY RONALD WILSON – OAM MASTER LANDSCAPE PAINTER

Died 1 December 2024 – aged 97

Geoff Wilson - an Australian Art Treasure

Geoff Wilson deserves recognition for his extraordinary contribution to the arts over many years. As a master landscape painter, he created art for over 80 years, beginning in early teens, to when he died aged 97, for the last years painting some of the most accomplished works. When he died, he had a painting on the easel and a drawing in progress for another painting.

Geoff Wilson is a master landscape painter who enjoyed working directly in the landscape, often on expeditions in a group with other artistic friends and notable figures. His art was inspired by the land and spanned the rural, semi-rural and suburban; subjects include working farms where machinery, sheds and implements often take centre stage, some with rusty surfaces; he shows beauty in that rust.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Geoff Wilson was awarded the Order of Australia at the Queen's Birthday Celebration in June 2022 for his significant contribution to the arts.

In September 2022 Geoff Wilson was awarded a Doctorate from the University of South Australia, for his significant commitment to the arts as a practicing artist and to students of art, as Lecturer at the South Australian School of Art.



*Meet the artist at the AIARTS Gallery - Geoff Wilson talking about his paintings, this one named:
Palettes contemplating the hills that Heysen once painted*

Geoff Wilson (above) gave a “Meet the Artist” talk; a riveting account from his early art student days, his intersection with artists such as Jeffrey Smart, his sketching and painting expeditions across Australia, Europe and the UK where he remembered levels of detail eg a Rembrandt exhibition in Venice in 1950s. An enquiring mind with an incredible memory!

GEOFF WILSON

Geoff Wilson created art for over 80 years and has an extensive exhibition record of over 50 years, in public and private galleries, including the following major exhibitions:

- Anne & Gordon and Samstag Museum of Art *Geoff Wilson: Interrogated Landscape* 17 July to 18 September 2015, a survey exhibition curated by Barry Pearce with a book by Barry Pearce and essay by John Neylon, published by Samstag Museum of Art.
- Art Gallery of SA *In Good Company: The drawings of Geoff Wilson* 6 July 2018 to 13 January 2019 an exhibition highlighting the mastery of his drawings and watercolours.

In addition, Geoff Wilson's art has continued to be exhibited in galleries. From 2019 on, his art has been featured in exhibitions at the AIARTS Gallery including:

- *Landscape Painting: Diverse responses to landscape*, 2019 with Winnie Pelz and Jason Cordero - three generations of artists from the South Australian School of Art, catalogue essays by John Neylon, Winnie Pelz, edited Angelika Tyrone
- *Meet the Artists* 2020 SALA exhibition with Jason Cordero, presentation by Geoff Wilson
- *Geoff Wilson: A celebration*, a solo show of recent works June-July 2022, to celebrate the OAM and Geoff Wilson's 80 years of art, opened by Tracey Lock. A catalogue by AIARTS
- *Geoff Wilson: Just deserts* 2023 opened by Catherine Hutchesson, MP for Waite

Recent group exhibitions that included his art: National Trust at Noarlunga Centre and

- *The Thinking Eye*, curated by Winnie Pelz, Signal Point Gallery, Goolwa Nov21-Jan22 with a catalogue with text by exhibiting artists, edited by Winnie Pelz

Prior to this, over the many years of his career Geoff Wilson exhibited his art many times at a number of galleries in Adelaide and SA including the Bonython Gallery, BMG and Kensington Gallery.

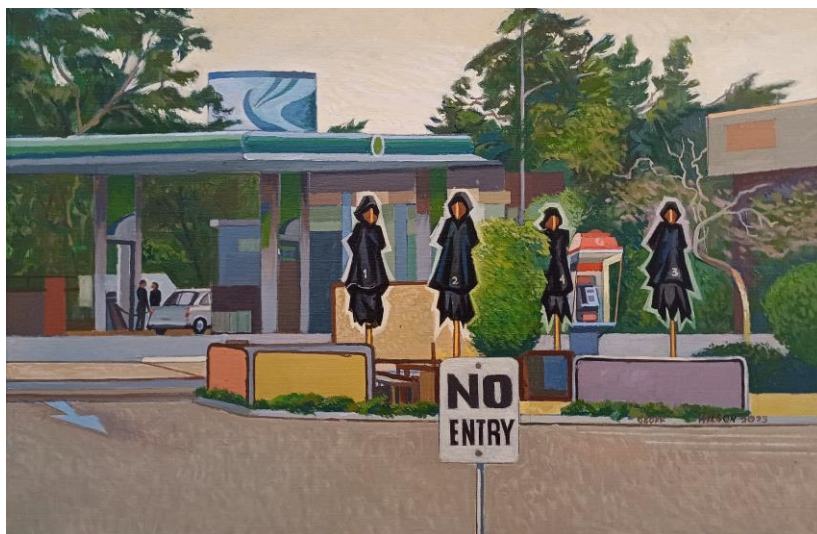
Geoff Wilson's creative influence spanned generations of art students while lecturer at the South Australian School of Art and in practicing his art, he continued to encourage and inspire former students.

by Angelika Tyrone, friend of Geoff Wilson, former student, now AIARTS Gallery Director, former lecturer at the SA School of Art, University of South Australia.

EXAMPLES OF PAINTINGS FROM THE LAST FEW YEARS – there are others



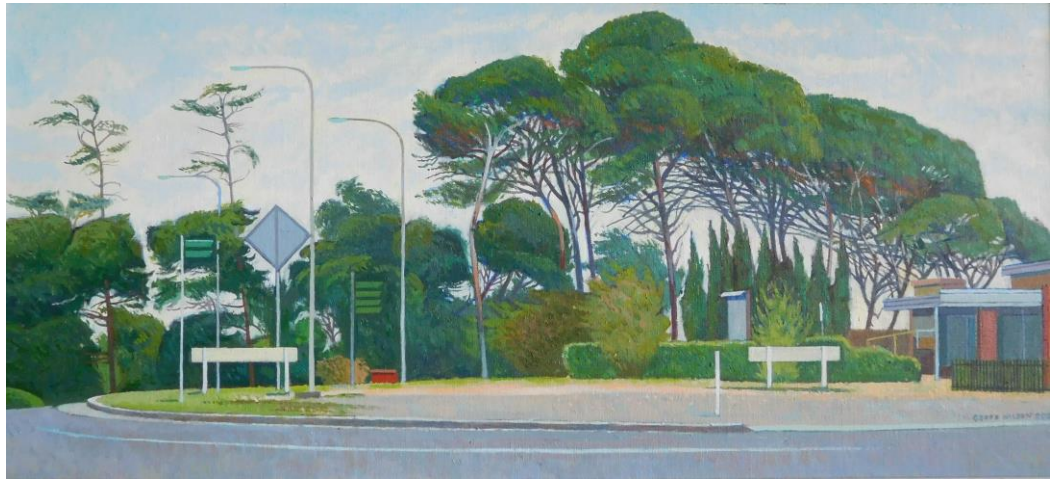
The pine tree's other half 2023-2024



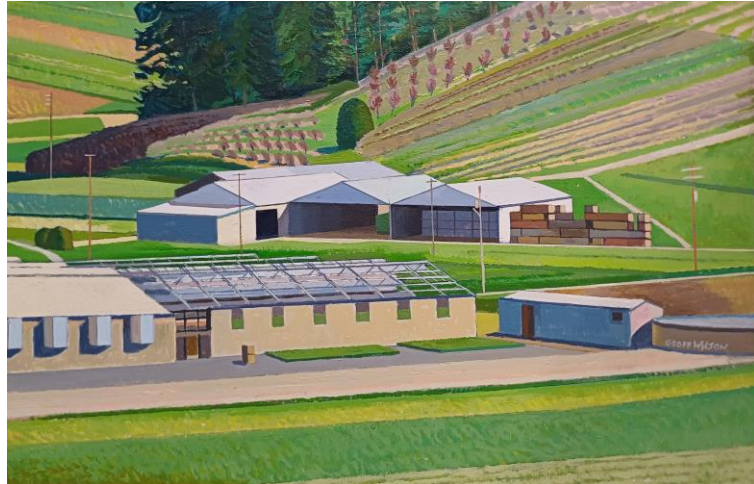
Ring – there are spooks in the Belair Triangle 2023

GEOFF WILSON

EXAMPLES OF PAINTINGS FROM THE LAST FEW YEARS – there are others



Pine trees at Belair 2023



The Piccadilly Valley on site late 80's finished in 2024



The big wedge of scrub – McLaren Vale South 2019 to 2022